

# Cooperative Innovative High Schools Statutory Application Process



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# Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS)

- What is a CIHS?
  - Operated by a local school administrative unit (LEA) in cooperation with an institution of higher education (IHE)
  - Allows students to concurrently obtain:
    - A high school diploma and
    - Begin or complete an associates degree, master a certificate or vocational program, or earn up to two years of college credit
  - Less than 100 students per grade
  - Located on the campus of the partner institution of higher education.

# Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS)

- What is a CIHS?
  - School of choice – students apply to participate
  - Sometimes called an early college high schools or Learn and Earn high school
  - May be a 5 year program for some students
- Where are they?
  - More than half of LEAs have one or more CIHSs.
- What is their impact?
  - In comparison to other NC high schools, have stronger performance on end-of course tests, higher graduation rates, and lower dropout rates.

# How are CIHSs funded?

## *Basic Funding*

- LEAs receives ADM (average daily membership) funding for each student attending a CIHS. This is the same as other schools in the LEA receive.

## *Additional Funding*

- Most CIHS also receive an additional \$310,000 a year. The State Board directs the funds be used for items such as:
  - Instructional coaches and professional development for teachers and principals
  - A Guidance Counselor, a Career Development Coordinator, and a college liaison
  - College Textbooks

# How are CIHSs funded?

## *Additional Funding*

- The cost of higher educational enrollment costs of all students enrolled in a CIHS beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> grade are also provided to the IHE.
  - Includes community college, public university, and in some cases private university costs.
  - Approximate current costs for CIHS enrollment in community colleges is \$35 million and universities is \$1 million.

# Early History of CIHSs, Funding, and Authorization

- 2005-2006 – First CIHSs open. 5 year grant support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is provided for initial CIHSs opened.
- 2007 - \$850,000 appropriated by General Assembly to assist in grants for funding of new CIHSs.
- 2005-2010 – Significant growth in CIHSs. More than 60 schools open statewide.

# Early History of CIHSs, Funding, and Authorization

- 2010 – Moratorium enacted. No new CIHSs may be approved unless the school received an explicit appropriation from the General Assembly.
  - Department of Public Instruction directed to study fiscal impacts of CIHSs, including historical data on the number of new schools created each fiscal year.
- 2012 – General Assembly revises application process and repeals moratorium.

# 2012 Legislation – 2 Application Tracks

## *Track 1: No Additional Funds Requested From State*

- LEA and their higher education partner apply for approval from:
  - The State Board of Education and
  - The appropriate higher education board.
- As part of application, LEA must demonstrate sources of sustainable funding for additional costs of school.
- If both Boards approve, LEA may open the CIHS. No additional action is needed by the General Assembly.
- LEA will not receive funding from the State for additional costs, including funding for higher education enrollment costs.



# 2012 Legislation – 2 Application Tracks

## *Track 2: Additional Funds Requested From State*

- LEA and their IHE partner apply for contingent approval from:
  - The State Board of Education and
  - The appropriate higher education board.
- If both Boards grant contingent approval by April 1, LEA may seek necessary additional funding for CIHS from the General Assembly.
- If additional funding is received within 1 calendar year from the General Assembly, LEA may open the CIHS.
- LEA will receive funding from the State for additional costs, including funding for the higher education enrollment costs.

# New Application Process Timing Concerns

- A school must receive funding within 1 year of conditional approval from the Boards. Due to timing of the budget process at the General Assembly, a school may not receive final approval to open until shortly before the start of the school year.
- 2013-2014 Example
  - 3 LEAs applied to open 6 CIHSs.
    - Applications due to Boards in Fall 2013.
    - Boards conditionally approved the CIHSs in Jan. 2014.
    - Requests for funds was made to 2014 General Assembly as part of Governor's proposed budget.
    - 2014 Budget became law on August 7, 2014. Included CIHS funding, giving authorization to open in 2014.

# Possible Solutions

- Planning Year as Part of Statutory Application
  - Revise the statute to authorize applications which include a planning year after receiving final approval through funding by the General Assembly.
- Planning Year as Part of Statutory Application Plus Funding
  - Revise the statute to authorize receipt of a planning year grant by the General Assembly as trigger for final approval of CIHS.